

## **FAQ about Refugee Services**

### **Who is a Refugee?**

#### **New Americans Services in E&TA**

#### **What is the estimated Refugee population in Fresno County?**

#### **What role does Fresno County play with the Refugee population?**

### **Who is a Refugee?**

Refugees are individuals who have been granted special immigration status ("refugee") by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services while outside the U.S. These refugees are unable to return to their country of origin because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. The definition for refugee also includes individuals who have been subject to or have a well-founded fear of being subject to coercive population control methods such as forced abortion or involuntary sterilization.

#### **New Americans Services in E&TA**

See [Refugee Services](#) in the Department of Employment and Temporary Assistance.

#### **What is the estimated Refugee population in Fresno County?**

Fresno County estimates there are about 50,000 refugees in Fresno County.

#### **What role does Fresno County play with the Refugee population?**

Fresno County Department of Employment and Temporary Assistance (E&TA) provides public assistance benefits (cash aid, medical assistance, and food stamps) to eligible refugees. The Fresno County Board of Supervisors has designated E&TA as the agency responsible for:

1. The administration of refugee-specific funding.
2. The development of County Plan for Refugee Services.
3. Recommendation as to utilization of refugee-specific funds.